

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ATHENIAN HOPLITE

Throughout the Classical period, the Athenian hoplite demonstrated an unwavering willingness to close with and kill the enemies of Athens, whenever and wherever he was required to do so. Yet, despite his pugnacity, he was not a professional soldier; he was an untrained amateur who was neither forced into battle nor adequately remunerated for the risks he faced in combat. As such, when he took his place in the phalanx, when he met his enemy, when he fought, killed, and died, he did so largely as an act of will. By applying modern theories of combat motivation, this book seeks to understand that will, to explore the psychology of the Athenian hoplite, and to reveal how that impressive warrior repeatedly stifled his fears, mustered his courage, and willingly plunged himself into the ferocious savagery of close-quarters battle.

JASON CROWLEY studied at the University of Manchester and now lectures at the University of Nottingham.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in
Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in
Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE ATHENIAN HOPLITE

The Culture of Combat in Classical Athens

JASON CROWLEY



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107020610

© Jason Crowley 2012

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2012

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Crowley, Jason, 1969–

The psychology of the Athenian hoplite : the culture of combat
in classical Athens / Jason Crowley.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-02061-0

1. Soldiers – Greece – Psychology
2. Soldiers – Greece – History – To 1500.
3. Military art and science – Greece – History – To 1500.
4. Psychology, Military

I. Title.

U33.C76 2012

355.1'2309385–dc23

2012009101

ISBN 978-1-107-02061-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to
in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such
websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>List of figures and table</i>	<i>page</i> vi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	vii
<i>List of conventions and abbreviations</i>	ix
<i>Picture credits</i>	x
Introduction	I
1 The architecture of aggression	5
2 Recruitment, mobilisation and deployment	22
3 The primary group	40
4 The military unit	70
5 The socio-political system	80
6 The compliance relationship	105
Conclusion	127
<i>Notes</i>	129
<i>Bibliography</i>	216
<i>Index</i>	235

Figures and Table

	FIGURE	
Figure 1	Competing concepts	<i>page</i> 14
Figure 2	Synthesis I	16
Figure 3	Synthesis II	18
Figure 4	Synthesis complete	20
Figure 5	The tactical subdivision of the Athenian hoplite phalanx	38
Figure 6	Automated casualty replacement I	58
Figure 7	Automated casualty replacement II	59
Figure 8	Automated casualty replacement III	60
Figure 9	Automated casualty replacement IV	61
	TABLE	
Table 1	The compliance relationship	19

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgements

Many debts have been incurred in the production of this book and the PhD thesis upon which it is based. I would especially like to thank Stephen Todd, Polly Low and Emma Griffiths, who offered supportive supervision and advice; Steve Rigby, Kathryn Green, Catherine Feely, Matt Adams, Jessica Hewitt and Ian Harrison of the Ducie Reading Club, who guided my slow methodological development; Costas Panayotakis, whose impossible task it was to introduce me to Classical Greek; David Langslow, who inherited that almost lost cause; Peter Liddel, who rendered much needed epigraphical assistance; and Terry Abbott, who helped me endure the agony of indexing.

I would also like to acknowledge the support offered by the department of Classics and Ancient History at the University of Manchester, which provided a warm and encouraging environment for my research, and to offer my thanks to those epistemological explorers, particularly Chris Heath, Aimée Schofield, Alex Dimond, Gareth Sampson, Amy Coker, April Pudsey, Jessica Otto, Sam Koon, Kati Fichtelmann and Saskia Roselaar, who accompanied me on this long journey, and although fully engaged on their own arduous expeditions, nevertheless unstintingly offered their expertise and morale-boosting company over breakfast, tiffin and post-seminar drinks. In addition, I would like to express my gratitude to those who offered extremely valuable comments on my work at various stages, namely Hans van Wees, Peter Liddel and both of CUP's anonymous readers. Naturally, all remaining errors are mine alone.

Inhabitants of the sometimes shadowy realm which exists beyond the confines of academia have also earned my profound gratitude, particularly my mother, for her words of wisdom, whispered or otherwise, my in-laws, for helping me improvise, adapt and overcome, Andrey Remic, for joining my Daniel Dravot with his Peachey Carnehan, and my wife, for her

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Acknowledgements

company on the trail, in the snow and at the bar, and for never complaining too much when I chewed the carpet.

Finally, this book is dedicated to two people who never met: my father, who was there to see its beginning, and my daughter, who was there to see its conclusion.

Conventions and abbreviations

For the sake of clarity and ease of reference, the short-title system of footnotes is used throughout this book. Greek names and places have been permitted their familiar Latinate forms, but technical terms have been allowed a more literal transliteration to facilitate analytical discussion. Where possible, bibliographical references to modern journals are abbreviated according to the conventions established by *L'Année Philologique*. The abbreviations adopted for ancient authors and their works generally follow those of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*.

The following abbreviations have also been used:

CEG	P. A. Hansen, <i>Carmina Epigraphica Graeca</i> , 2 Vols. (New York, 1983–9).
Fornara	C. W. Fornara, <i>Archaic Times to the End of the Peloponnesian War</i> , 2nd edn (Cambridge, 1983).
IG	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i> .
ML	R. Meiggs and D. M. Lewis, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions to the End of the Fifth Century BC</i> , rev. edn (Oxford, 1988).
Pritchett	Pritchett, W. K., <i>The Greek State at War</i> , Parts I–IV (Berkeley, 1971–91).
SEG	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> .
Stouffer <i>et al.</i>	Stouffer, S. A. <i>et al.</i> , <i>Studies in Social Psychology in World War Two</i> , Vols. I and II (Princeton, 1949).
Tod II	M. N. Tod, <i>A Selection of Greek Historical Inscriptions</i> , Vol. II: <i>From 403–323 BC</i> (Oxford, 1948).

Cambridge University Press

978-1-107-02061-0 - The Psychology of the Athenian Hoplite: The Culture of Combat in
Classical Athens

Jason Crowley

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Picture credits

I would like to express my especial gratitude to Hans van Wees for generously allowing me to use his illustration of the hoplite (adapted and reproduced in Figures 6–9), particularly because the model of the hoplite combat advanced here competes with his own. All remaining photographs, figures and tables are my own work.